

# ecco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 12, Issue 1, Spring 2013

Neighbors talking to neighbors

**Don't forget to vote for the at-large City Council positions**

**Tues. April 9, 2013**  
Primary Election

**Tues. May 7, 2013**  
General Election

## Message from ECCO President Ann Bleed

It is cold and wintery in the East Campus Neighborhood, but spring is coming and we are getting ready! This year, instead of the *Discover ECCO* event, we are sponsoring a series of **gardening workshops** and a **Garden Tour** to help make our yards beautiful, in spite of the drought, and to show off our neighborhood and raise money to Re-Tree our streets. Check them out and plan to participate. Also remember to attend the ECCO *Easter Egg Hunt*.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Sat. March 23, 2013**  
Native plant workshop and sale (see page 3)

**Sat. March 30, 2013**  
ECCO Easter Egg Hunt (see page 2)

**Thu. April 4, 2013**  
*Garden workshop:* Creating a water-wise landscape (see page 1)

**Sat. April 13, 2013**  
Neighborhood Clean-up

**Sat. April 20, 2013**  
*Garden workshop:* Eat what you grow gardening (see page 1)

**Sat. April 27, 2013**  
*Garden workshop:* Suitable perennials for Nebraska gardens (see page 1)

**Sat. May 11, 2013**  
*Garden workshop:* Building rain barrels (space limited, call to RSVP; see pages 1-2)

**Sat. June 1, 2013**  
*Garden Tour* (see page 2)

## Introducing the ECCO Garden Classes and Tour

Wondering what grass to plant if your lawn doesn't come back after last summer's dry heat? Interested in native plants and attracting pollinators? Looking for tips on growing your own veggies? Check out these ECCO-sponsored gardening classes. Take some time to admire your neighbors' green thumbs and keep your yard beautiful even during a drought! **All classes are free!**

### Creating a Water-wise Landscape

**Thur. April 4th, 6:30-7:30pm at Warren United Methodist Church, 1205 N 45th St.** Sarah Browning, Extension Educator- Horticulture, University of Nebraska – Lincoln will show us how beautiful, healthy landscapes are possible, even during Nebraska's drought years. Creating a water-wise landscape requires some planning, and the use of good cultural practices. Learn about the best use of drought tolerant plants in your landscape.

### Eat What You Grow Gardening

**Sat. April 20<sup>th</sup>, 11am-noon at Earl May, 5555 S 48th St.** Robert Anderson, Manager of Landscaping, Earl May will tell us about growing your own fruits and vegetables using smart plant selection for the area. We'll discuss good growing techniques and differences in water conservation practices for fruits and veggies versus ornamentals and trees.

### Suitable Perennials for Nebraska Gardens

**Sat. April 27<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30am at Warren United Methodist Church, 1205 N 45th St.** Gladys Jeurink, Master Gardener, and B.J. Ohme, Landscape Technician will share their years of gardening experience with participants as they provide information about a wide variety of perennials that will thrive locally to create a beautiful garden, spring through fall!

### Building Rain Barrels

**Sat. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30am in your neighbor's backyard, 3920 Apple St.** Barrel-building space is limited so you must register by contacting Danielle at [danielle.ecco@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.ecco@gmail.com).

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Ellen Wright, Water Quality Educator, City of Lincoln Watershed Management will tell you how to build and install a rain garden that will lower your water bill, and use every drop of rain we get.

More details and other great gardening events can be found on our website: <http://eastcampus.org/gardenproject>.

### **ECCO Garden Tour and Yogurt**

**Sat. June 1<sup>st</sup>, 9am-1pm in the neighborhood**

Visit some of the incredible gardens here in the East Campus neighborhood and help ECCO raise money to “re-tree” our neighborhood. A small fee will be charged for the tour. *More details of our garden tour yet to come, but for now be sure to save the date!*

### **Re-Tree Nebraska and fund-raising**

Re-Tree Nebraska is a 10-year cooperative initiative to raise public awareness of the value of trees and reverse the decline of Nebraska’s community trees and forests. ECCO has received a grant to offset the original loss to our canopy due to Dutch Elm disease in 1973; and to get ahead of the expected losses due to the Emerald Ash borer. It is estimated that 1/3 of the trees in Lincoln are Ash, and we know we have many in ECCO.

We must raise half the funds (\$2,700) in order to receive the matching amount of \$2,700 from Re-Tree Nebraska for a total of \$5,400 dedicated to planting trees in our neighborhood this fall. We are hosting a fundraising event to benefit this worthy cause – a walking tour of ECCO gardens on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am – 1pm.

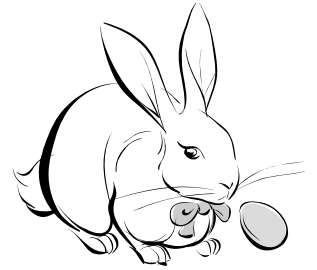
If you stop in at **Yogurtini** at 233 North 48<sup>th</sup> Street (north of Target) on June 1<sup>st</sup> and tell them you are from ECCO, the neighborhood will make even more money!



Yogurtini offers 16 premium flavors of frozen yogurt and more than 75 different toppings and with your purchase help fund ECCO (15% of the proceeds go to ECCO). Yogurtini in always offers one no-sugar added and one non-dairy option. Stop by and enjoy your favorite frozen treat on our fabulous outdoor patio and if you need it, they have FREE Wi-Fi as well. ■

## **ECCO Easter Egg Hunt, March 30**

It’s time for the annual ECCO Easter Egg Hunt, and the Easter Bunny will be there to start things off with a wave of his carrot! The annual hunt for candy-filled eggs is sponsored by the East Campus Starrs, a neighborhood women’s group, and supported by ECCO. We traditionally have more than 100 ECCO neighborhood children participating, and hope to see you there this year.



As always, children 8 and under are welcome to participate (there will be a special area for children 3 and under), and you’ll want to be right on time, because once the Easter Egg hunters are unleashed, it’s over pretty quickly.

**Where: McAdams Park @ 44<sup>th</sup> and Y Streets**

**When: Saturday March 30 @ 11:00 AM**

**What to bring: A basket or bag for your goodies**

**Who: Children 8 and under**

Parents, please let children hunt without your help! The Easter Bunny will be expecting you. We will see you at the hunt! ■

## **LPS Early Childhood Program open**

It’s that time of year again! LPS Early Childhood Program (E<sup>x</sup>CITE) will begin accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school year beginning on March 1, 2013. Parents will be able to apply at our district office located at 949 W. Bond St. as well as at their local elementary school. In order to apply for a child who is 3 or 4 before July 31, 2013, you will need to fill out the two page application and supply LPS Early Childhood Program (E<sup>x</sup>CITE) staff with your child’s certified birth certificate, immunization records, and 2012 income verification.

If you have already applied for the program and your child is on the waiting list you will need to come in and update your current application and provide LPS Early Childhood Program (E<sup>x</sup>CITE) staff with your 2012 income verification. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Toni Jafferis at 402-436-1941 or [ajaffer@lps.org](mailto:ajaffer@lps.org). Also feel free to visit them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LPSEarlyChildhood](http://www.facebook.com/LPSEarlyChildhood).



## Kudos to Paul and Sherri Johnson

On March 3, 2013 the *Preservation of Lincoln Association* presented the 2013 Residential Award to Paul and Sherri Johnson for their renovation of the house at 4027 Holdrege Street.

When the Johnsons purchased the property in December of 2009, one of their main goals was to prevent the lot from becoming a parking lot for the next door fraternity and preserve their neighborhood. The 1918 vintage house was so run down that it was close to being demolished and turned into a parking lot. There was extensive water damage inside and holes in the soffits on the outside allowing animals free access to the interior.

It took two years for Johnsons, who did much of the work themselves, to transform the house from a “money pit” into The Johnson Guest House. Contactors replaced electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems inside. Outside, overgrown bushes and over 20 trees were removed and the yard re-graded. Utilizing a cooperative program with the City of Lincoln, a rain garden was included with the new landscaping.

The Johnson Guest House is now an upscale completely furnished family home available for visitors to rent. Contact information and a virtual tour of the home may be found at [www.johnsonguesthouse.com](http://www.johnsonguesthouse.com). ■

## Annual Spring Clean-up

**Saturday April 13, 8am-Noon**

**American Lutheran Church, 42<sup>nd</sup> and Vine**

Remind your neighbors! ECCO's Annual Spring Clean-up is coming up. This annual event allows you to get rid of your yard clutter, brush, old bikes, old lumber, metal scraps, tires, and other unsightly items. Volunteer will be available to pick-up these items curbside if arranged in advance. Contact Patti Pierson at 402-440-8016 as early as possible to make pick-up arrangements. You are encouraged to haul and drop off items at the church parking lot.

There will be fee charged for large appliances and tires. *The fees will be waived up to \$50 for paid ECCO members!* You can join on site.

Do NOT bring: leaves, yard clippings, computers, paint, pesticides, solvents, motor oil and other hazardous waste. The clean-up is being held in conjunction with UNL's Big Event.

Volunteers are needed for sorting recycling items at the roll-offs and volunteers with trucks for curbside pick-ups. If you are willing to help out, contact Patti at 402-440-8016 before April 13. Help us keep ECCO clean and green! ■

## Native Plant Workshop and Sale

**Saturday March 23, 10am**

**Finke Gardens and Nursery, 500 N 66th St**

Friends of Wilderness Park are sponsoring a program by Benjamin Vogt, native plant enthusiast, on growing native plants in your own yard. With the current drought, his presentation will be especially timely as native plants are well adapted to the climate extremes of our area. The program is free and open to everyone.

Friends of Wilderness Park is also sponsoring a native plant sale. Plants are being grown by Finke Gardens and Nursery and all funds from the sale will be used to protect Wilderness Park. After March 4, catalogues will be available at Finke's Meadowlark, The Mill, and Lincoln Parks & Rec. Or call 402-477-8282 to order a catalogue or for more information. Plant orders due by April 25<sup>th</sup>. ■

*Friends of Wilderness Park*

## In Memorium: Barbara Rixtine

Long time neighborhood resident Barbara Rixtine died Thursday February 23. Barbara and her husband Jim



Danielson moved to Idylwild Drive nearly twenty-five years ago. She was retired from the University of Nebraska where she was a writer and adjunct faculty in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

## We need your support!

It's time for ECCO membership dues! If you didn't have an opportunity to pay your ECCO membership dues at the Annual meeting in October, when they are due, it's not too late. Your hard-earned dollars go to support the many activities you are reading about in this newsletter and more – we appreciate your help. If you are interested in volunteering, just let us know your particular interest – we welcome your help! Just complete and mail in the form below with your check. You'll see your dollars at work!

# ecco

*East Campus Community Organization (ECCO) is a organization of neighbors within the boundaries of 33rd and 48th St from Vine to Holdrege.*

*For further information, visit our website or contact a board member.  
board@eastcampus.org  
http://www.eastcampus.org*

### Board of Directors:

Ann Bleed, *President*

Mary Eisenhart, *President Elect and Membership Chair*

Roy Maurer, *Treasurer*

Brian Striman, *Secretary*

Scott DeWitt, *Webmaster and Communications Chair*

Rebecca Carr

Gary Gerkin

Tom Madsen

Patti Pierson

Lee Sabata

Danielle Shea

Dick Voeltz

## ECCO Membership Form

*It costs so little and helps so much!*

To join, please provide the following information and send a check (payable to ECCO) to the Treasurer.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail	<input type="text"/>

### Annual dues

**\$20** Household membership

**\$25** Business membership

### Send payment to:

Roy Maurer  
ECCO Treasurer  
1444 N 37th St  
Lincoln NE 68503

Feel free to call me to help with the following volunteer activities:

☐ Newsletter Delivery  
☐ Grant Writing  
☐ Article writing

☐ Spring Clean-up  
☐ Independence Day Parade  
☐ Anything!